

**EYCI School Advisory Council**  
**Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Present:** Stephen Morris, Michael Atzemis, Amber Taylor, A.H.M. Ahasan Ullah, Mark Peacock, Raymonde Lievens, Susie Tsianos, Sue Gill, Popi Caravasilis, Nick Moutafis, Christina Lagoudontis, Sharon Connolly, Abeba Gebissa, Christopher Fardis, Helen Bournas, Emily Clair

**1. Call to order:** 6:40pm

**2. Approval of agenda:** motion proposed by Amber Taylor, seconded by Popi Caravasilis.

**3. Approval of minutes:** motion proposed by Popi Caravasilis, seconded by Mark Peacock.

A request was made, and unanimously approved by the members of the meeting, that the agenda be augmented with discussions of two points:

- i) identity day
- ii) equality of assessment.

The Principal said that both were to be addressed in his report (see below).

## **REPORTS**

**4.1. Student Governance** (C. Fardis on behalf of the student representatives, neither of whom could attend the meeting)

*Club Fair:* held on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Fair was a success. A hard copy of the meeting times and places of EYCI's clubs is available for perusal in the school's gym. Students can still join clubs.

*Hallowe'en:* there will be a costume contest on Hallowe'en with classroom visits and grade points for those in costume.

*Semi-formal:* possible venues for the semi-formal have been narrowed down to Parkview Manor and Toronto Botanic Gardens. Site visits will take place to ascertain which is preferable.

*White Ribbon Day:* there will be a collection on White Ribbon Day in December, with proceeds being donated to the Red Door Women's Shelter.

*Talent Show:* auditions for December's Talent Show will take place in November.

**4.2. Principal** (Steven Morris)

*Teachers' representative on Council:* the Principal thanked Christopher Fardis who will be the teacher's representative on the School Council for the current academic year.

*Safe and Easy Schools Committee:* this is a new committee with teacher and student representation which focuses on both physical safety and wellness at EYCI. A seat on the Committee is reserved for a parent representative; Mr. Morris invited members of Council to volunteer but he will also put out a general call to parents. Meetings will be monthly during Tuesday lunchtimes.

*Library:* the finishing touches remain to be done to the library, namely, a little more furniture (comfy chairs), painting and new carpets. Last year's library fundraising campaign raised \$3500, and it will be continued this year. The Principal stressed that those who make donations over \$20 would receive a tax-deduction statement.

*Auditorium:* work on the air-conditioning will commence during the summer, but this means that it will not be ready for commencement (see minutes from the meeting of Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>).

*Identity Day:* Mr. Morris deemed the day a success in forging bonds amongst grade 9s who attended, though he bemoaned that attendance was poor (about one-third of grade 9s attended). In the ensuing discussion, some members of Council questioned whether it was necessary to cancel a day's in-class instruction on Identity Day. Mr. Morris retorted by stating that the event would be repeated next year but that it would likely be integrated into the school day, so that normal pedagogical activities would not be disturbed. There was also a little disgruntlement at the lack of detailed information about the day until shortly before it took place.

Despite the teething problems of the event's first year, Mr. Morris supported the idea of Identity Day in light of problems of racism and the experience of some minorities at EYCI.

*Spirit Wear:* sales this year were good (over 250 orders placed). Deliveries will arrive in 2 to 3 weeks. Proceeds go to providing apparel for EYCI's sports teams.

*End of half semester:* November 5<sup>th</sup> will mark the end of the half semester for those students taking careers and civics this term. Final marks for the first half semester course will follow.

*Washrooms:* a continued problem with vandalism of bathrooms has been noted. Unlike that which occurred in the spring/summer of last year, this year's vandalism is concentrated in the male washrooms and in consequence of which only two male washrooms are currently functioning.

*Quest for a new VP:* Mr. Morris was effusive in his thanks to Council's Co-Chair, Amber Taylor, who, on behalf of Council, wrote a strong letter of support to the Board for EYCI's attempt to have a third Vice-Principal instated.

*Photo Day:* VP Emily Clair reported on a successful photo day at EYCI. In contrast to previous years, photo day was held in the third week of term, later that it had been hitherto. This increased the number of students who were photographed.

*Equitable assessment:* some members of Council had been apprised of information which suggests that this semester's grade 11 mathematics classes were characterized by a low average (a percentage in the low 50s was mentioned), significantly lower than the Province's average. Furthermore, there were concerns about the lack of uniformity in the teaching of mathematics across the different grade-11 classes, with some teachers allowing re-takes of tests/quizzes and offering bonus marks, whilst others not doing so. Questions of equity across different classes arose. Mr. Morris showed solicitude about such reports and assured members of Council that equity in assessment and other aspects of teaching were central concerns of his discussions and meetings with teachers. Ms. Clair added that she was to hold imminent meetings with members of the mathematics department during which she would address these matters. Mr. Morris urged students who faced difficulties in mathematics to approach their teachers and seek help. He stressed that he was always open to hearing from parents/students about putative inequities across the curriculum.

#### **4.3. Teachers' representative:** Christopher Fardis

Numerous events and achievements of note have been taking place at EYCI during the foregoing month. These include:

- various sporting achievements, e.g., EYCI participation in the City's cross-country championships, EYCI hosting a middle-school sporting tournament, EYCI's girls' rugby 7s becoming city champions, girls' and boys' rugby 7s competing in a Province-wide competition.
- EYCI School Band: the Band is to play to mark Remembrance Day at East York Civic Centre.

#### **4.4. Guidance** (Michael Atzemis)

The recent focus of guidance activities has been on advising grade 11s and 12s about future opportunities once they leave EYCI. Guidance counsellors have been holding sessions for classes in both grades which include topics such as how to apply for and conduct research about post-school opportunities. These sessions are a prelude to the Pathways Fair to be held on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at EYCI from 6-8:30pm.

Soon to begin are feeder school tours at EYCI for grade 8 students. Half-day tours will be offered to the following feeder schools: Clairlea (29<sup>th</sup> Oct.), D.A. Morrison (5<sup>th</sup> Nov.), George Webster (7<sup>th</sup> Nov.), Cosburn (12<sup>th</sup> Nov.), Westwood (14<sup>th</sup> Nov.) and G.A. Brown (19<sup>th</sup> Nov.).

A grade 8 open house at EYCI will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. from 6:30-8:30pm and is open to both students and parents who are considering EYCI as a high-school destination.

In answer to a question, VP Emily Clair announced that there would be a bring-your-kid-to-work day this year, and forms (blue in colour) would be circulated shortly to those who would like to take their child/ward to work on that day.

#### **4.5. Student Success:** no report.

#### **4.6. Co-Chairs** (Nick Moutafis, Amber Taylor)

*Innovation Grant:* after last year's successful application for such a grant, the question was raised whether there were ideas for an application and concomitant event this year. The deadline for applications is early December, and Nick Moutafis encouraged all to come to the next meeting with ideas. The TDSB's template for the Grant is to be found under:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/School-Councils/School-Council-Innovation-Grant>

Members are urged to peruse this document to orientate themselves.

Nick Moutafis circulated ideas for the school's statement of needs which are to be discussed at the November meeting.

#### **4.7. Treasurer:** nothing to report thus far.

The meeting ended at 8:15pm with a motion to adjourn proposed by Amber Taylor and seconded by Mark Peacock.

The next meeting of the Council is to take place on November 25<sup>th</sup>.